

Submitter: Nicholas Buri
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: HB2098

Dear Co-Chairs McLain and Frederick, Co-Vice-Chairs Boshart Davis and Boquist, and committee members,

My name is Nick Buri, I live in NE Portland, and I'm tired of Portland's transportation infrastructure not living up to our "forward-thinking" reputation. To be clear, I support rebuilding this bridge - I just want it to be right-sized, not another project that ignores induced demand and further clogs our city with car traffic. It pains me every time I think about how many less populous cities there are that have better public transit systems than we do - yet every time I turn around it seems that we're widening freeways and turning infrastructure improvements into pork-barrel projects full of waste and deference to the almighty automobile. With regards to this project, we're putting the general fund on the hook for upwards of a billion dollars of debt when we have urgent, unmet needs in housing, schools, public transit, and other sectors. Why can't ODOT learn to manage their budget like the rest of us have to?

Legislators, you're being asked to sign off a billion dollar project that you haven't even actually approved. A behemoth project like this needs strong oversight at every level; the -3 amendment gives us that while keeping us eligible for that time-sensitive federal funding.

Let's get this done right. Do away with amendments -2 and -4, pass amendment -3, and let's move forward already. This is getting old.

Thank you for your time and attention.